

**UPDATE ON EFFICIENCIES BILL (SB 5248)**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
September 2003 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Prepared by: Kathleen Davis, Highways & Local Programs Director

Approved by: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this briefing paper is to advise the Commission of the work plan to respond to the legislative initiatives contained in the Transportation Efficiencies Bill (SSB5248).

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

Informational

**DISCUSSION:**

This briefing covers only the Local Government reporting requirement for the Transportation Commission and for the Department of Transportation. These same reporting requirements were presented to the Commission in May 2002, as part of R51.

**Local government: cities, counties and public transportation.**

The following three sections of the new law mandate the coordination between the state and cities, counties and public transportation agencies in developing common measurement tools for maintenance and preservation. In summary these are:

**Cities:** *Sec. 305* -Requires cities and towns to provide the commission with preservation rating information on city and town arterial networks. (modifies RCW 46.68)

The new requirement is: "During the 2003-2005 biennium, cities and towns shall provide the transportation commission, . . . preservation rating information on at least seventy percent of the total city and town arterial network. Thereafter, the preservation rating information requirement shall increase in five percent increments in subsequent biennia. The rating system used by cities and towns must be based upon the Washington state pavement rating method or an equivalent standard approved by the transportation commission."

**Status:** Cities and towns must provide their first report to commission during the 2003-2005 biennium.

Highways & Local Programs (H&LP) is taking the lead and partnering with the Association of Washington Cities to ensure all rating systems are based on the Washington state pavement rating method or approved equivalent. For the first reporting biennium of 2003 - 2005, cities and towns will be contacted to supply data on the required 70% of the arterial network. The functional classification data base will be used to identify the local arterials.

### **Proposed process for implementing the program**

- (1) Survey cities to document their rating systems used and percentage of arterials currently measured.
- (2) Establish a working group of cities of varying sizes to guide us in developing this process.
- (3) Compare rating systems used with Washington state pavement rating method.
- (4) Work with cities to develop a reporting process that will be delivered to commission
- (5) Develop a draft report and present to the commission for consideration.
- (6) Assist cities with identifying and overcoming reporting roadblocks through classroom and on-site training and technology transfer.
- (7) Collect data and submit to commission for approval.

**Counties:** *Sec. 307* - Requires the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) to establish a standard for maintenance of transportation assets, compile the data annually and report the findings to the Commission. (modifies RCW 36.78)

The new requirement states: “The board (The County Road Administration Board (CRAB)) shall establish a standard of good practice for maintenance of transportation system assets. All counties must implement this standard no later than December 31, 2007. The board shall develop a model maintenance management system for use by counties. Counties shall annually submit their maintenance plans to the board. The board shall compile the county data regarding maintenance management and annually submit it to the transportation commission.”

**Status:** The maintenance standard must be implemented by all counties no later than 12/31/07. The counties have maintenance plans. Last year CRAB started a program to formalize all county maintenance plans into one type of system. This new law merely gives CRAB a deadline (12/31/07) for completion of this formalized process.

**Transit:** *Sec 302-304,306* - As a condition of receiving state funding, all Washington public transportation agencies are required to submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for transportation commission certification. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the agency and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost.” (RCW 35.84.060, RCW 36.56, RCW 36.57A, RCW 81.112)

There is no expressed deadline for submission of these plans, but submittal of public transportation agencies’ maintenance management plans is a condition for receiving state funding.

The 26 different agencies currently report vehicle inventories and vehicle conditions in their annual Transit Development Plan. This new legislative requirement will provide an opportunity to standardize the components of a transit asset management plan that is based on lowest life-cycle costs.

**Proposed process for implementing the program:**

- (1) Review several transit agencies’ preventative maintenance programs. Identify the difference between what WSDOT currently receives and what the legislation requires.
- (2) Establish a working group with the Washington State Transit Association.
- (3) Develop a quick-start prototype maintenance and preservation plan table of contents with descriptions of the contents expected and the criteria for the plan's approval.
- (4) Develop a prototype that frames the expected criteria for the plan’s approval. Prototype should recognize the different sizes of transit agencies (large urban, small urban, and rural).
- (5) Consult with the transportation agencies regarding the prototype and the comparison against today's submissions. Solicit feedback on the proposed asset management plan.
- (6) Develop a draft asset management plan and present to the commission for consideration.
- (7) Commission adopts asset management plan requirements.
- (8) Public Transportation and Rail Division staff provides training and technical assistance to requesting transit agencies.
- (9) Collect asset management plans and submit to commission for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A.

For further information, contact Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, 360-705-7027 or Kathleen Davis, Highways & Local Programs Director, 360-705-7871.